



July, August, September, 2002

Volume Two Issue Four

## **CFS SHOWCASE** *AUGUST 23, 2002*

Cumberland Valley was given an opportunity to shine on August 23! And shine we did! The CFS Showcase was a huge success. Employees and Community Partners from across the Region, as well as many Quality Central staff, were on hand to take part in the celebration of the way we do business—Comprehensive Family Services.

We were happy to have several Quality Central folks in attendance—Viola Miller, Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Tim Jackson, Deputy Secretary, Dietra Paris, Commissioner of Community Based Services, Sissy Cawood, Director of the Division of Service Regions, Rose Pennington, Director of the Division of Professional Development and Training, and Michael Denny and Sandy Goodlett, both of Family Resource and Youth Services.

Thanks to Jeff North for making arrangements for us to use the Carmichael Community Church for this special event.

Thanks to the Food and Decoration Committees.

(Continued on next column, this page)

Thanks to all the entertainers and others who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, planning and organizing, operating equipment, cooking for hours and hours in advance, decorating the church and creating the beautiful banners, filming and editing videos, and finally, cleaning up afterward.

A very special recognition to all the presenters and to all those who prepared presentations that were not selected this time.

There were many tears shed on August 23—both of sadness and of laughter.

(More about the CFS Showcase is on Page 2)



*Jan Rose White*

## More About the Showcase From Nancy Bean *SRA of Cumberland Valley*

The Showcase we did for Secretary Miller, Commissioner Paris and the other Quality Central administrators was a huge success. Every time I go to Quality Central someone stops me and talks to me about how everyone who came has raved about it. A huge thanks goes to all who worked so hard on it.

The Showcase was a one day event and anyone can look good for a day. The test is, "day in and day out, can you excel in your work?". The answer in Cumberland Valley is a resounding "yes".

Our statistics (which represent the clients we serve) are consistently great. That is something we can be very pleased with. But we cannot let down. The minute we do, clients suffer.

We still have a number of challenges in front of us. We will be addressing those in the days, weeks and months ahead. But I have no doubt we will be as successful in those as we have been the others.

You are always up for the challenge. I look forward to our continuing to have the great results we have been experiencing. You are too good for us to do less.



*Penny Gray*



*Every Heart Needs a Home*

## Every Heart Needs a Home

*reported by Alison Schaefer, Perm Team*

The Cumberland Valley Permanency Team will be hanging a bulletin in their new offices when they move (photo above). The "Every Heart Needs a Home" Bulletin Board will be used to show every TPR that the Permanency Team helps to achieve during the coming year. This beautiful bulletin board was cross-stitched by the talented hands of Karen Smith, a caseworker on the Perm Team. Every time a TPR is finalized, one of the wooden hearts will be added to the picture which we hope will be full by next September. Every time we move a heart a child is that much closer to a permanent home, with loving parents and security for the future.

If someone tells you they want to learn more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, they should call (800) 232-KIDS (5437).

## CONGRATS TO KRISTY *100% for 12 Months!*

*reported by Deanne Hensley & Lisa Cain*

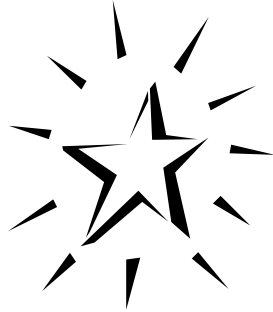
Kristy York of the Williamsburg Protection and Permanency Office has been 100% current in Contacts, Assessments, and Family Plans for 12 straight months!!!

Many, many people have made great improvements since we began tracking this information monthly. But Kristy has managed to be 100%, in all three categories, consistently, for 12 months. This is wonderful. Thanks for all the hard work that you do.

Lisa Cain, Kristy's supervisor, says that Kristy is a great worker with a high caseload and a lot of responsibilities. In addition to her caseload, Kristy does ten to twelve referrals per month.

And one more reason to congratulate Kristy...She married Tim Reeder on September 21, 2002.

Good Luck and Best Wishes to Tim and Kristy Reeder!



## *Keep up the Great Work on the Positive Report...*

Belinda Smith and Dennis Williams of Harlan, and Karen Smith from the Perm Team, have been 100% in all three categories for nine of the past 12 months. Belinda Collins of Williamsburg has been 100% in all three categories for seven of the past 12 months. Great Job!

## Cumberland Valley Meets (Surpasses!) Adoption Goal



Congratulations to all who had a part in helping Cumberland Valley surpass its adoption goal for 2002. Above is the "thermometer" that hangs outside the Regional offices of R & C and the Perm Team. This meter is updated throughout the year as adoptions are finalized.

## Transportation of Children

**REMINDER – When transporting our children,** staff are expected to have a valid driver's license and liability insurance as required by state law. Appropriate child restraints are to be used when transporting children in motor vehicles. Smaller children should be placed in appropriate restraints in the back seat and not in range of air bag impact. The manufacturer's instructions regarding the correct use should be closely reviewed and followed in regard to the weight and height of children.



## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Shana Goggins and Sandy Owens, Family Life Abuse Center Outreach Educators, attended Cumberland Valley's Regional Staff Meeting on September 11. They spoke about the many services their Center provides and distributed literature for supervisors to take back to their offices.

The Family Life Abuse Center is a domestic violence program that provides shelter and other assistance to victims of domestic violence. This Center serves all of Cumberland Valley's counties. Services are free and based upon the individuals' needs. Referrals are made regarding community resources such as housing, education and job training, as well as group or individual counseling. There are also Victims Advocates who work within the shelter to provide legal advocacy. Shana and Sandy wish to raise community awareness and educate the public regarding domestic violence.

### Victims' Crisis Lines:

**(800) 755-5348 or (606) 256-2724**

Staff who need to reach the Abuse Center for non-emergencies can call the business line: (606) 256-9511.

Shana and Sandy report that according to the U. S. Department of Justice, 53% of all victims of crime identify the offender(s) as an intimate partner, relative, friend, or acquaintance. Victims identified intimate partners (current or former spouses, boy or girlfriends) as the perpetrators in 10% of all violent crimes. (Rennison, 2001)

## *There's no excuse for abuse!*

The month of October is a time when domestic violence advocates around the nation draw attention to this epidemic and its devastating consequences. People are encouraged to provide support to victims and to inform perpetrators there is no excuse for abuse.



**Wear or display a purple ribbon to show your support for survivors and victims of Domestic Violence.**

From Shana Goggins and Sandy Owens:

### **If you suspect someone you know is being abused...**

- Ask if they are safe at home or need help if they are not.
- Tell them help is available through the Family Life Abuse Center.
- Support by offering assistance if they need to seek shelter.
- Call the police if you hear or witness an assault.
- Contact the Family Life Abuse Center to obtain educational information on domestic violence.

**What NOT to do...** Don't assume that someone else is helping a victim of abuse or their children. Chances are no one is. Even if someone is, there is strength in numbers. Don't assume because the victim does not ask for help, he or she does not need it. Don't assume that safety and justice for victims will ever be possible until we all become part of a community effort to end domestic violence!

## CQI CORNER

from Lynn Grigsby

The Cumberland Valley Continuous Quality Improvement Process (CQI) is a process involving all staff of the organization. We will focus mainly on QUALITY SERVICE, which is built on the Case Review process, with an emphasis on Participant Satisfaction, and Work Environment.

It is our goal to Improve the Overall Quality of Services to the Families and Children of Kentucky by incorporating the components of Council on Accreditation Standards, Adoption and Safe Families Act, Cabinet for Families and Children Outcomes and our Cabinet Strategic Plan, into our CQI Plan.

Our objectives for the CQI Plan is to:

- Evaluate the Effectiveness of our services
- Determine if services meet Outcomes
- Correct any deficiencies found
- Address all needs identified on a local, regional, and/or state basis

Every employee and every function of the Cabinet must be invested if the Continuous Quality Improvement Process is successful. A CQI process is only as good as its team members and the agency's commitment to the process.

The purpose of CQI is to IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES WE OFFER! WE HAVE SENT SEVERAL ITEMS TO THE STATE CQI TEAM PERTAINING TO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- BATCH MATCHES
- OUTLOOK TRAINING
- SPECIFIC TWIST ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- TCM report run dates
- the inclusion of PCC schools in drop down list
- changing TWIST to allow approval of case plan only when CQA has been approved
- changing TWIST to allow supervisor to view supervisory approval date
- case is not being removed from ticker when approved
- Add button to TWIST to capture Quarterly MSW Consultation and request report generated monthly.

THESE ITEMS ARE IN PROGRESS!!

THANKS TO ALL THE TEAMS FOR CONTINUING TO SEND SUCH WONDERFUL IDEAS!!!

**CQI Tips:**

**Reminder...**



CQI is required to be an agenda item on all regularly scheduled Staff meeting agendas and Visions meetings.

The CQI Team Chairperson or designee should give a brief summary of what is happening in the local CQI Team meetings.

**Don't forget...**

When completing a Staff Safety Incident Report, always complete the Staff Safety Follow-up report as well. These reports are in addition to any OSHA forms you already complete.

The distribution of these forms is listed at the bottom of each form.



## It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Roger and Tracy Caldwell, proud parents of "Haley Morgan Caldwell". Haley Morgan was born on October 9, 2002 and weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. All are doing well!

## Birthdays in Laurel Co.

Gail Madden reports the following birthdays in Laurel Co.

Debbie Angel - July 13  
Rob Thompson - July 30  
Glenda Collett - August 17  
Stacey Smith - September 2  
Jennifer Warren - September 13

Gail Madden transferred from the Clay Co. to Laurel Co. Protection and Permanency Office during this quarter. Other Laurel Co. news, Jennifer Warren, Laurel Co. P & P, recently became the Regional Foster Care and Adoption Specialist. Congratulations!

## From Clay Co.

*reported by Verne Webb*

On July 30th, Clay County P and P staff held a pool party and cookout for foster children, their foster parents and their families, our foster children in Comp Care's foster care program and their foster parents and families, P and P staff and their families. It was held at the Beech Creek Recreation Center. The District and Circuit Judges were invited, and the Honorable Gene Clark, Judge of Clay's new Family Court attended and was able to meet and talk to foster children and foster parents.

## Wilma Nicholson's Winning Recipe

You may recall that in June of this year Cumberland Valley had a picnic (Fun Night). As part of the festivities, there was a recipe contest. The winner was Wilma Nicholson of the Clay Co. Family Support Office. Congratulations, Wilma! Following is Wilma's winning recipe.

### Lemon Pound Cake

2 cups sugar  
1 cup of oil  
4 eggs  
2 teaspoons lemon flavoring  
Beat with mixer for 5 min.  
Add:  
1 cup plain flour  
1 cup self rising flour  
1 cup sweet milk, mix well  
Bake at 325 degree for 50 or 60 minutes

### Lemon Cake Icing

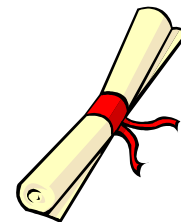
2 tablespoons butter  
1 tablespoons milk (cream is better)  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon lemon  
2/3 cup of powered sugar

## Kentucky Career Manager Participants

The Annual Awards Ceremony in recognition of dedication and accomplishments in receiving the certificate of management fundamentals will be hosted by Governmental Services Center at Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center, Frankfort, KY on November 07, 2002 at 2:00 pm.

### Participants:

Carla Barrett  
John Robbins  
Betty Sergent  
Janice Smith  
Joyce Cummins



## Kentucky Children Need Foster, Adoptive families

by Viola Miller, Cabinet Secretary

“Well now I’ve seen it all. It can’t get worse than this.”

That was my mantra during my first two years as Secretary of the Cabinet for Families and Children. A 4-year-old shot in his sleep ... a 3-year-old choked to death during a sexual assault ... children burned, battered, shaken to death.

Surely, I thought, I had seen it all. I’ve stopped saying that now. The agony that adults inflict on children goes far beyond my comprehension.

Vodka in a gastric feeding tube... what sane person could conceive of that abomination?

But you can imagine homes where children are loved and nurtured, can’t you? Where little ones are clean and fed and tucked in?

I know of some very special homes like that. The families in them care for about 5,210 children who are not their own.

We desperately need more homes like them.

They care for children who have been taken into state custody because they were abandoned, neglected, battered and bruised. Social workers call them “out-of-home-care” children—too bland a term, I think, for the tragic losses these children have endured.

Who are they?

(Continued on next column, this page)

I can tell you first-hand that most of them are not cute, blond 2-year-olds ready to take on the world.

They are often older, damaged, not always nice (why should they be?) and they often come in multiples. Sometimes the only thing these children have left are brothers and sisters, so we try to keep them together.

But our kids, with all their baggage, can “hook” you, like any other kids. I’m hooked on three of them, brothers who live in the group home my daughter runs.

These boys have no family or friends outside the framework of care the state is trying to build around them. A court has declared that their parents have no further rights to them.

Guess where they come for Christmas? One of the boys, recently placed in a wonderful foster home, explained lovingly to his new mom that he had to divide his time between her house and mine at Christmas this year because that’s what he does...spend the holidays with my family.

I took all three to Wal-Mart the day before Easter last year. We came away with a tent, a helmet, a basketball, cassette tapes, eggs, dye and other assorted things and spent at least 20 minutes in the checkout line.

My position as Cabinet secretary, among other circumstances, means I can’t foster or adopt. But I can’t help it: hooked we are, in love we are, with these kids.

They call me Gramma. Why do they do that?

(Continued on next page)



We are desperate for more people “hooked” on children in state care. We need adults, single or married, who are willing to take a risk on damaged goods.

They are damaged, but they are ours. They belong to Kentucky. Their parents either cannot or will not give them what they deserve simply because they are children. How can we as a society deny any child a home with loving adults?

Many of our kids have families who do care, but are having a crisis in their lives and need short-term help to get over the hump. Others are so addicted to drugs or rage that they will never be able to care for their kids. Still others put Vodka in feeding tubes ... or batter, shake or burn.

Each of these children, if they live through their trauma, deserves a life. They deserve someone who, regardless of their flaws, will get “hooked” on them... will fall in love with James, Beth or Samantha and make a place in their life for them.

Are you someone who could become “hooked” on a kid? Can you dare to care enough to take a damaged one ... and his or her brother and sister?

If you are, call us. We have some really wonderful, awful, beautiful, ugly, perfect, damaged, waiting children.

*For more information on foster care and adoption, call (800) 232-KIDS.*



If you would like to add something to Cumberland Valley’s next quarterly newsletter, contact Connie York by phone (606) 878-6228 or e-mail: [connie.york@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:connie.york@mail.state.ky.us)

## HEROES NEWS

### Honoring Excellence and Rewarding Outstanding Employee Service

Heroes nominations for the third quarter were as follows:

- Bell – Sue Vaughn, Geraldine Taylor
- Clay – Gina Lake, Vernita Sizemore, Jessica Welch
- Knox – Lisa McKeethan
- Harlan – Susan Noe, Terry Sundry, Buffy Williams
- Laurel – Roger Caldwell, Teresa Proffitt
- Whitley – Vickie Blevins, Margaret Helvey, Chessica Riley
- Rockcastle – no nominations
- Jackson – no nominations

### Regional Winner: Gina Lake

Gina was recognized during the Regional staff meeting held at Pine Mountain State Park on October 8. Congratulations, Gina!



View from the Dining Room of  
Pine Mountain State Park  
October 8, 2002